



EUROPEAN FOOD FORUM

Non-profit association

à

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STATUTES

TITLE I: Legal Form – Name – Registered Office – Purpose – Duration

Article 1: Name and Legal Form

The association is constituted as a non-profit association (ASBL). It is named “EUROPEAN FOOD FORUM”, abbreviated “EFF”. Both full and abbreviated names may be used jointly or separately.

Article 2. Headquarters

The registered office is established in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Article 3. Non-Profit Purpose and Activities-

The European Food Forum aims to serve as an independent, non-partisan discussion forum involving legislators, policymakers, and stakeholders on challenges and opportunities arising from key agri-food policy themes and emerging trends in Europe, in order to improve transparency and mutual understanding.

The association maintains relations with public and private institutions concerned with food-related issues connected to EU goals in sustainability, public health, climate change, and agriculture. **The association does not take positions on specific policy issues.**

Non-profit purpose:

- to monitor appropriate public policies at European level, integrating, anticipating and promoting major agri-food policy themes and emerging trends at European and global levels, also paying particular attention to themes related to innovation and research;
- Promote a common food policy based on the collective intelligence of food system actors, including local actors.
- Support a common food policy that responds more rapidly to concerns and aspirations of EU consumers.
- develop and maintain relationships with other public and private institutions interested in these issues
- the Association prioritizes problems and actions that fall within the framework of the European Union.

The Association may carry out all acts directly or indirectly related to its purpose. In particular, it may lend its support to and take an interest in any activity related to its corporate purpose.

To achieve its non-profit, altruistic goal, the association will carry out, both in Belgium and abroad, either on its own behalf or on behalf of its members, activities such as:

- Organising political debates, seminars, roundtables and summits on issues related to the food supply chain,
- Study visits,
- Studies,
- Participation in public events,
- Development of education and awareness systems on food,
- Development of permanent dialogue platforms: spaces for dialogue between organisations from different sectors, facilitating the sharing of ideas and collaboration,
- Participation in projects funded by public or private contributions (foundations only),
- Organisation of exhibitions and fairs, also in partnership,
- Development of collaborative research and publications where participants collaborate on studies, reports and publications that document emerging challenges and solutions,
- Cooperation with third countries and international organisations for the development of joint activities and dialogue,
- Annual Summit of the European Food Forum,
- **Any other activity that contributes to achieving the EFF's objectives that has not been listed.**

It generally has full legal capacity to carry out all acts and operations having a direct or indirect connection with its purpose or which would be likely to facilitate directly or indirectly, wholly or partially, the achievement of that purpose.

Article 4. Duration

The association is established for an unlimited duration.

TITLE II: Members

Section I : Categories and Admission

Article 5. Members

§1. The association is composed of “Members” and “Partners”;

§2 Members:

- the founders,
- members of the European Parliament,
- members of the private sector (business members), members of public institutions and civil society.

- Special members

“The Association may admit sitting Members of the European Parliament, meaning any natural person who is a member of the European Parliament and who declares to adhere to the objectives of the EFF.

All former MEPs who have been Political Members of EFF are welcome, upon request, to participate in all EFF events, with the exception of internal meetings.

Should a former MEP repeatedly request to attend EFF events, the Steering Committee may ask for greater clarity about the interests s/he represents.

Should a Member that is former MEP become associated with an organisation which could reasonably be expected to become an EFF Business or Associate member, s/he shall undertake reasonable efforts to make that organisation become EFF member.

The Steering Committee may recognise a former MEP Members or other personalities who have made an exceptional contribution to EFF with the designation "Honorary Member". Honorary Members will be invited to participate in all EFF events, excluding internal meetings. Such participation is in a strictly personal capacity.

Regarding the ‘Business Members’ and the ‘Public Administration and Civil Society Members’, the Association may accept:

- Members from the business sector, whether they are commercial or industrial companies widely represented in Europe, or commercial or industrial associations, provided they declare to adhere to the objectives of the EFF. Given that the Forum does not take positions, economic actors operating in the novel foods sector whose products have not yet received EFSA approval, but are included in the work programme of EU research and innovation programmes, shall be eligible for Membership.
- Members from public institutions and civil society, whether they are non-commercial associations or associations of individuals (such as non-governmental organizations, non-commercial associations, academic institutions, foundations, museums, think tanks, public entities such as regions and cities, research and innovation centres and agencies — whether public or private – etc.), provided they are likely to contribute significantly to the EFF’s objectives.

Entities from both categories seeking membership shall be required to be listed in the EU Transparency Register and comply with the EFF’s Code of Conduct in order to be eligible for Membership in the Forum.

§3 The number of Members is unlimited, but it may not be lower than 3

Members of the European Parliament and 2 Members from the business sector and from public institutions and civil society.

§4 Members of the European Parliament enjoy only the rights and obligations set out in these statutes.

§5 All Members are required to adhere to the objectives of the Association. Business Members and Members from public institutions and civil society shall be obliged to pay annual membership fees in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of these statutes.

§6 Special Members

Special Members are European institutions or agencies, or public–private partnerships (PPPs) involving European institutions that contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the European Food Forum. They shall not be considered Full Members and therefore shall not form part of the Assembly and shall not hold voting rights.

§7 Partners

Partners of the Forum are entities that collaborate with the European Food Forum in support of its objectives without acquiring Membership status.

Partners of the Forum shall be categorised as:

- a. Media Partners;
- b. Third Countries and International Organisations.

Partners are not considered Full Members and therefore shall not form part of the Assembly and shall not hold voting rights.

Partners may be invited to participate in specific activities, initiatives, or events of the Forum, in accordance with procedures established by the Steering Committee.

The establishment, continuation, or termination of a partnership shall be subject to the decision of the Steering Committee.

§7.1 Media partners

Media Partners collaborate with the Forum in the areas of communication, education, and dissemination relating to the Forum’s activities.

Media Partners may participate in joint initiatives, projects, or events in accordance with procedures established by the Steering Committee.

§7.2 Third Countries and International Organisations.

The Forum recognises the importance of international cooperation in addressing global challenges related to food security, sustainability, and public health. Collaboration with international organisations and third countries is essential for sharing knowledge, best practices, and resources to achieve common objectives.

EFF Members shall engage with international organisations and stakeholders from third countries in a spirit of mutual respect, solidarity, and cooperation. They shall seek opportunities for joint initiatives, capacity-building activities, and policy dialogues aimed at promoting sustainable food systems at the global level, while respecting the sovereignty and diversity of nations.

All collaborations with international organisations and third countries shall comply with the principles of independence, neutrality, and transparency set out in this Code of Conduct.

Partners may be invited to participate in specific activities, initiatives, or events of the Forum, in accordance with procedures established by the Steering Committee.

Collaboration with international organisations and third countries shall not require the payment of membership fees. However, such partners may—without any obligation—provide in-kind contributions to the organisation of events or activities. These contributions shall not confer any benefit on Members of the European Parliament belonging to the Forum, nor on any other Members of the Forum.

The establishment, continuation, or termination of a partnership shall be decided by the Steering Committee.

§8 Members and Partners shall comply with all applicable laws, these Statutes, the decisions adopted by the Association's bodies in accordance with these Statutes, and the EFF's Code of Conduct.

Article 6. Admission Procedure

To be admitted as a Member, the person must meet the conditions set out in the previous article and must obtain the approval of the Steering Committee.

The application for membership of the Forum must be submitted electronically using the form available on the Forum's website, by accepting the provisions set out in the Statutes and in the Code of Conduct, and by certifying that the applicant is duly registered in the European Union Transparency Register.

Applications for admission, forwarded by email by the EFF Secretariat to the EFF Steering Committee, shall be approved by decision of the Steering Committee; however, they shall be deemed automatically approved by tacit consent if no comment from the Steering Committee is made within 5 working days following the request.

The decision of the Steering Committee shall be taken in accordance with the quorum and majority requirements set out in Article 12 of these statutes. The Director-General shall inform the applicant of the Steering Committee's decision. Membership takes effect as soon as the Steering Committee notifies the applicant of a positive decision.

“The rejection of an application by the Steering Committee must indicate the main reasons underlying the decision, which must be based on the eligibility criteria for Membership defined in Article 5 above. The applicant concerned shall have the right to appeal this decision before the Steering Committee, which shall re-examine the application, if such an

appeal is filed.

Section II : Resignation and Exclusion

Article 7. Resignation

1. Automatic Termination

- Membership is automatically terminated upon the death of the Member or the dissolution of its legal entity.
- The status as a Member of the European Food Forum for Members of the European Parliament is automatically lost as soon as their membership of the European Parliament ends. If, for any reason, the parliamentary immunity of a Member of the European Parliament is lifted, their membership status is automatically suspended for the duration of that period, if requested by the steering committee.

2. Resignation

Any Member of the European Parliament may resign at any time with immediate effect by notifying the Association's Board of Directors in writing.

Any organisation belonging to the Business Members or to the Public Institutions and Civil Society Members categories may resign from the Association by notifying the EFF Secretariat in writing no later than six months before the end of the current year (i.e. by 30 June). The Secretariat shall inform the Association's Board of Directors accordingly. During this period, Membership status and all related obligations — including, without limitation, the obligation to pay Membership fees — shall remain fully in force.

3. Exclusion: Members may be excluded by decision of the General Assembly following a proposal to that effect from the Board of Directors or the Steering Committee, possibly with immediate effect, in the following cases:

- A serious breach of the obligations attached to Membership, as provided for in Article 5 §6 of these Statutes and the Code of Conduct,
- The conditions of eligibility for Membership, as stipulated in Article 5 of these Statutes, are no longer fulfilled;- The Member has committed an act contrary to the law or to the generally accepted rules of honour and personal integrity applicable to the profession;

4. Effects of the termination of Membership

1. When the Steering Committee establishes grounds justifying the exclusion of a Member, the Board of Directors may suspend the rights of the Member concerned.
2. If a Member from the business community or a Member from public institutions or civil society loses their Membership status due to automatic termination, resignation, exclusion or any other cause during a financial

year, the annual membership fee shall remain payable in full for the entire year.

3. No Member who ceases to be a Member of the Association as a result of automatic termination, resignation, exclusion or any other cause, nor any of their legal successors, may claim any rights over the assets of the Association.

The loss of Membership entails a prohibition on using one's former status as a Member in any manner whatsoever.

Article 8. Membership fees

Members from the business community and Members from public institutions and civil society shall pay annual membership fees, which are determined each year by the Board of Management.

Membership fees may vary depending on the different categories of Members from the business community and Members from public institutions and civil society.

Certain categories of Members from public institutions and civil society may be exempted from contributions at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors. The Membership fees ("the Membership contribution") shall be determined annually by the Board of Management. The amounts of the Membership fees applicable to the following year shall be specified in the Code of Conduct.

The amounts of the Membership fees applicable to the following year shall be communicated to the Members concerned at least seven months before the end of the current year.

Members shall receive the invoice during the first half of the year to which the Membership fee relates.

Payments shall be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of the invoice. Late payments may result in measures determined by the Management Board, without prejudice to the Member's obligation to pay the outstanding amount.

During any resignation period, Membership status and all related financial obligations — including, without limitation, the obligation to pay Membership fees — shall remain fully in force until the effective date of resignation.

TITRE III. ADMINISTRATION – CONTROL

Article 9. Composition of the Board of Management

1. The Association is managed by a Board of Management, which shall be composed of at least two (2) persons and a maximum of six (6) persons. The maximum number of members of the Board of Management may in no case exceed the number of Members of the European Parliament affiliated with the EFF who sit on the Steering Committee.

2. Elections: The Members of the Board of Management shall be elected by the General Assembly from the lists of candidates submitted to the General Assembly by the Full Members. The category of Members from the business community and the category of Members from public institutions and civil society shall each submit a list to the General Assembly.

The Board of Management shall be composed of candidates proposed by these categories, with a maximum of 3 Members from the business community and 3 Members from public institutions and civil society. The number of Members from each category must always be equal.

3. Members of the European Parliament may not participate in the Board of Management.

4. Term of office. The term of office of the Members of the Board of Management is set at three years. Thereafter, they may be re-elected for additional consecutive terms of three years.

The mandate of a Member of the Board of Management shall also cease if the Member dies, is dismissed by the Member from the business community or the Member from public institutions and civil society who employed them at the time of their appointment, or if the Member of the Board of Management resigns from their mandate.

The Chair of the Board of Management, acting on behalf of the Board of Management, may call for the election for the vacated position by a vote of the Members of the relevant category.

5. Dismissal. The General Assembly may dismiss Members of the Board of Management at any time.

Article 10. Chair of the Board of Management

The Board of Management shall elect from among its members a Chair from among its members. The Board may also appoint a vice-chair, a treasurer and/or a secretary. In the event that the chair is unable to act, they shall be replaced by the vice-chair or, failing a vice-chair, by another director designated by their colleagues, or, failing agreement, by the oldest person present.

Article 11. Convening of the Board of Management

The Board of Management shall meet at least twice a year upon convocation by its Chair.

The members of the Board of Management shall be duly convened to meetings by a written notice sent by email by the EFF Secretariat.

The notice shall include an agenda for the meeting and shall identify and specify in sufficient detail the matters on which a vote will be required.

The notice shall be sent at least seven days before the date of the meeting. Provided that all Members of the Board of Management agree, they may waive the requirement for a valid notice of convocation for a specific

meeting.

Article 12. Deliberations of the Board of Management

A meeting of the Board of Management shall be deemed validly constituted even if some or all of its Members are not physically present or represented, provided that they participate in the deliberations through any modern means of telecommunication that allows the Members of the Board of Management to hear and speak directly to one another, such as videoconference or teleconference services.

In such cases, the Members of the Board of Management shall be deemed to be present.

Any Director may grant a proxy to one of their colleagues to represent them at a specific meeting of the Board of Management and to vote on their behalf. Such proxy must be given in writing. In this case, the principal shall be deemed to be present.

A Director may also, provided that at least half of the members of the Board of Management are physically present, express their views and cast their votes in writing.

The Board of Management may not validly deliberate or decide on matters that are not included on the agenda unless all its members are present at the meeting and give their consent.

Such consent shall be deemed to have been given if no objection has been recorded in the minutes.

In the event of a tie, the chair of the meeting shall have the casting vote. However, if the association has only two Directors, the chair's casting vote shall cease to apply until the Board of Management once again consists of at least three members.

(a) Quorum. Unless specific requirements are provided for in these Articles of Association, decisions of the Board of Management may only be taken when two-thirds of the Members of the Board of Management are present or represented.

(b) Majority. The primary objective is to reach decisions by consensus. In the event of a vote, each Member of the Board of Management shall have one vote. Decisions of the Board of Management shall be taken by a majority of votes. In the event of a tie, the Chair of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

Article 13. Minutes of the Board of Management

The decisions of the Board of Management shall be recorded in minutes signed by the chair of the meeting and by any Directors who wish to do so.

These minutes shall be entered in a special register.

Powers of attorney, as well as opinions and votes submitted in writing, shall be appended thereto.

Any document dated and bearing the signature of all Members of the Board of Management, and recorded or inserted in the register of minutes, shall be deemed to constitute a decision of the Board of Management.

The resolutions of the Board of Management shall be recorded at the registered office of the association.

Article 14. Powers of the Board of Management

The Board of Management shall have the power to:

- Prepare and submit to the General Assembly, for approval, the budget and the annual accounts in accordance with Article 34 of these Articles of Association;
- Administer the association;
- Represent the association in all regulatory procedures, with the possibility of delegating such authority;
- Determine the annual membership fee payable by the Full Members.

All powers that are not expressly assigned to another committee of the association by law or by these Articles of Association shall be exercised by the Board of Management.

Article 15. Remuneration of the Board of Management

The Members of the Board of Management shall receive no remuneration.

Article 16. Conflict of Interest

If a Member of the Board of Management has a conflict of interest in connection with any decision to be taken by the Board of Management, that Member shall inform the Board of Management of such conflict of interest and shall refrain from taking part in the decision-making process.-making process.

Article 17: Representation of the Association

The association shall be validly represented in its dealings with third parties and with respect to all judicial and extrajudicial acts by two Members of the Board of Directors acting jointly.

The Board of Directors may, under its own responsibility, delegate the day-to-day management of the Association to a director or to a third party (the 'Director General' or 'DG').

The Director General of the association is appointed by the Board of Management. They are responsible for the daily management of the association, for all administrative and organisational tasks arising from the decisions of the Board of Directors and, where applicable, other bodies of the association, as well as for the management of its premises.

In the context of day-to-day management, the Association shall also be validly represented in its dealings with third parties and with respect to all judicial and extrajudicial acts by the Director General acting alone.

None of the aforementioned persons shall be required to provide justification in their dealings with third parties.

Additional provisions regarding the representation of the association and the delegation of powers may be set out in the administrative regulations.

TITRE IV- STEERING COMMITTEE

Article 18. Steering Committee

1. Composition. The Steering Committee shall be composed of a minimum of five persons and a maximum of thirty (30) persons. The Members of the Steering Committee shall include at least three Members of the European Parliament, one representative of a Member from the business community, and one representative of the Members from public institutions and civil society, who must also be a Member of the Board of Management. In addition, external personalities may become Members of the Steering Committee. The eligibility criteria for external personalities shall be further detailed in the administrative regulations. The distribution of mandates within the Steering Committee among the Members of the European Parliament, the Members of the Board of Management and the external personalities may be further explained in the administrative regulations.

2. Appointment

All Members of the European Parliament wishing to sit on the Steering Committee shall be admitted as of right, without any formal appointment being required.

The Members of the EFF Board of Management are Members of the EFF Steering Committee.

External personalities may become Members of the Steering Committee upon invitation by the Members of the European Parliament who sit on it. 'External personalities' shall mean individuals with a high professional or institutional profile, such as, for example, former Directors-General of the European Commission, former European Commissioners, recognised scientists, sectoral experts, or any other person who has distinguished themselves in their field of activity.

3. Term of office. The term of office of the Members of the European Parliament serving on the Steering Committee shall expire at the same time as their mandate in the European Parliament (namely, five years) or when they cease to be Members. The term of office of the Members of the Board of Management serving on the Steering Committee shall expire or be terminated when their mandate on the Board of Management expires or is terminated. The term of office of the external personalities on the Steering Committee shall expire when the mandates of the Political Members serving simultaneously on the Steering Committee expire.

The External Personalities shall not have voting rights within the Steering Committee but shall hold an advisory mandate.

The mandates of the Members of the Steering Committee may be renewed.

4. Removal.

The General Assembly may remove the Members of the Steering Committee at any time.

5. The Members of the Steering Committee shall receive no remuneration.

6. Powers

The Steering Committee shall have the power to:

- Define the strategy of the association;
- Review the proposals of the Programming Committee;
- Approve the Programme of Events, on the basis of a proposal from the Programming Committee;
- Issue recommendations to the Board of Management, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Board of Management; Appoint the Co-Chairs of the Programming Committee; Chairs of the Programming Committee; -Chairs of the Programming Committee; Confirm new members; Propose to the General Assembly the exclusion of a Member;

7. Presidency

The Steering Committee shall appoint from among its members a President and Vice-Presidents, who must be Members of the European Parliament.

8. Term of office

The term of office of the President has been set at two years and six months (2.5 years). After this period, they may be re-elected for additional consecutive terms of two years and six months.

9. Other provisions

Other provisions concerning the Steering Committee, including those relating to its meetings, its agenda and its decision-making process, shall be set out in the administrative regulations.

Article 19. Audit of the association

Where required by law and within the limits it provides, the audit of the association shall be carried out by one or more auditors, appointed for a term of three years and eligible for re-appointment.

TITLE V. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 20. Composition

The General Assembly is composed of all the Members of the association. Members from the Business sector and Members from Public Institutions and Civil Society may be represented by a delegate ('Member Representative').

A Member may also be represented at the General Assembly by another Member belonging to the same category, provided that such representation has been duly registered. This means that any Member from the Business sector, any Member from Public Institutions and Civil Society, or any Member of the European Parliament may only be

represented respectively by another Member belonging to their own category.

Article 21. Powers

The General Assembly shall exercise the powers conferred upon it by law and by these statutes.

This includes the following exclusive competences, which may only be exercised by the General Assembly:

- 1° The amendment of the statutes;
- 2° The appointment and dismissal of the administrators and the determination of their remuneration in cases where remuneration is granted to them;
- 3° The appointment and dismissal of the auditor and the determination of his/her remuneration;
- 4° The discharge to be granted to the administrators and to the auditor, as well as, where applicable, the initiation of legal action by the association against the administrators and the auditors;
- 5° The approval of the annual accounts and the budget;
- 6° The dissolution of the association;
- 7° The transformation of the ASBL into an AISBL, into a cooperative company accredited as a social enterprise;
- 8° To convert the association into a company pursuing a social objective;
- 9° To exercise all other powers that are explicitly granted to the General Assembly by these statutes.
- 10° All other cases where the law or these statutes require it.

Article 22. Conduct of meetings and convening

1. The General Assembly shall take its decisions at ordinary or extraordinary sessions.

Members are convened to the General Assembly by the Chair of the Board of Management.

The Chair of the Board of Management shall convene an ordinary session of the General Assembly once a year, with at least the following items included on the agenda:

- (1) The approval of the annual accounts for the previous financial year,
- (2) the approval of the annual budgets for the current financial year.

An ordinary General Assembly shall be held each year at the registered office on the last Friday of the month of June at 6:30 p.m. If that day is a public holiday, the General Assembly shall be postponed to the next working day.

2. Extraordinary General Assemblies shall be held whenever circumstances require it and whenever one fifth of the Members request it.

In this latter case, the Chair of the Board of Management must convene a General Assembly within four weeks.

If no action is taken on the request to convene the General Assembly within two weeks of the request, the requesting Members may themselves proceed with the convening, in accordance with the convening procedures that the Chair of the Board of Management must follow.

3. Notices shall be sent in writing, by ordinary mail, email, or any other written means in the name of the Chair of the Management Committee, and must be dispatched at least four weeks before the date of the General Assembly meeting. The notice shall specify the place, date, and time of the General Assembly meeting. The provisional agenda shall be included in the notice.

Any proposal signed by one twentieth of the Members must be placed on the agenda.

If necessary, the final agenda shall be sent to all Members at least 8 days before the General Assembly meeting.

Items that are not included on the agenda shall not be discussed, unless all Members are present or represented and unanimously agree to address them.

4. Sessions conducted by means of a written procedure. In certain exceptional cases, and when the urgency of the matter concerned so requires, the General Assembly may take decisions by implementing a written procedure. For this purpose, the Chair of the Board of Management shall send the proposed resolutions to all Members by ordinary mail or by any other means of communication that he or she deems appropriate (including email). The proposed resolutions shall be accompanied by a memorandum prepared by the Chair explaining the reasons for using the written procedure, as well as the context of the proposed resolutions. The proposed resolutions shall be deemed adopted if, within ten working days after being sent, the number of duly completed responses returned to the Chair by the Members is sufficient to constitute a quorum and to meet the voting requirements stipulated in these statutes.

5. Sessions held by means of videoconference, by teleconference and instant messaging services. The General Assembly may take place and make decisions through the use of modern telecommunication technologies that allow Members to hear and speak directly to one another, such as videoconferencing and teleconferencing. In the same context, the General Assembly may also take place and make decisions through the use of modern telecommunication technologies that allow

Members to communicate with one another in writing, such as, for example and without limitation, instant messaging services.

Article 23. Sessions

The General Assembly meeting shall be chaired by the Chair of the Management Committee or, if the Chair is unable to do so, by the Member with the greatest seniority or by another Member of the Management Committee, as decided by the Chair.

Article 24. Deliberations

All Members shall have the right to one vote in the General Assembly.

All Members shall have the right to:

- Participate in the General Assembly meeting;
- Speak during the General Assembly meeting;
- Vote when the General Assembly takes decisions on the powers described in Article 21 of these statutes.

However, the ‘Other Members’ (namely, the Political Members) shall be excluded from the right to vote when the General Assembly takes a decision concerning the budgets and the accounts, as described in Article 21 of these statutes.

Quorum.

Unless otherwise provided by law or by these Articles of Association, the General Assembly shall be deemed validly constituted if fifteen (15) percent of the Members are present or represented. If a quorum is not reached at any meeting of the General Assembly, the Chair of the Board of Management shall convene a new meeting, within four (4) weeks following the meeting. This second meeting shall be deemed to have reached a quorum regardless of the number of Members present or represented.

Majority

Decisions within the General Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes present or represented, unless otherwise provided by law, these Articles of Association, or the internal regulations. In the event of a tie, the Chair of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

The decision concerning the budgets and the accounts, as described in Article 11, point (g) of these statutes, shall require a majority of the votes of the business members as well as the members from public institutions and civil society, to the exclusion of the Members of the European Parliament.

The General Assembly grants discharge to the Members of the Board of Management as well as to the Director General, unless such discharge is refused by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at a meeting in which at least two-thirds of the Members are present or represented.

With regard to amendments to the statutes and the dissolution of the

association, the provisions of Article 33 of these statutes shall apply.

Article 25. Minutes

The decisions of the General Assembly shall be recorded in a minutes register, which shall be signed by the Chair of the Board of Management. This register shall be kept at the registered office, where all Members may consult it.

Each Member may obtain a copy of the minutes upon written request. The decisions may, where necessary, be communicated to interested third parties by letter, email, or any other written means.

TITLE VI – PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Article 26 : Programming Committee

Each year, the Members of the European Parliament who are Members of the EFF, together with the other Members, shall formulate and review the proposed events and activities envisaged for the upcoming annual period. During the proposal phase, Members shall submit their ideas for events and activities to the Secretariat, which shall consolidate the proposals and present them to the Programming Committee. At this stage, the MEP Members of the EFF and the other Members shall assess the proposals to ensure their compliance with the purpose and objectives of the EFF.

Following this assessment, the Secretariat shall transmit all proposals to all MEP Members of the EFF for the final selection of events, during which these MEPs shall determine the activities they intend to organise. The final annual programme of events and activities shall be submitted to the Steering Committee for review and approval, in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions.

Article 29 : Other provisions

Other provisions concerning the Programming Committee, including those relating to its meetings, its agenda and its decision-making process, shall be set out in the Code of Conduct.

TITLE VII. FINANCIAL YEAR – INTERNAL REGULATIONS

Article 30. Financing

In addition to the contributions paid by the Members, the association shall also be financed by donations, legacies, and the income from its activities.

Article 31. Financial year

The financial year begins on the first of January and ends on the thirty-first of December of each year.

At this date, the accounts of the association shall be closed and the Board of Management shall draw up the annual accounts in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. The Board of Management shall also prepare a draft budget for the following financial year. The Board of Management shall submit the annual accounts for the previous financial year and the draft budget for the following financial year to the annual General Assembly.

The Board of Management shall submit the audited accounts of the past financial year to the approval of the General Assembly before 15 May of each year.

The General Assembly shall appoint an auditor.

The auditor shall produce a report on the association's annual accounts. This report shall be submitted to the General Assembly.

Article 32. Internal Regulations

The Board of Management shall set out in the internal regulations (administrative regulations) the conditions relating to:

- its meetings;
- the representation of the association and the delegation of powers;
 - the meetings, agenda, and decision-making process of the Board of Management;
 - as well as any other matters it deems appropriate to regulate.

The internal regulations may not contain any provision that is incompatible with mandatory legal provisions or with the statutes of the association.

TITRE VIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES – DISSOLUTION – LIQUIDATION

Article 33. Amendments To The Statutes

Only the General Assembly shall be empowered to amend the statutes, provided that the purpose of such amendments is specified in the notice of meeting and that two-thirds of the Members are present or represented at the session. Decisions to amend the statutes must be taken by a two-thirds majority of the Members present or represented.

Any decision to amend the association's mission or to dissolve the association must be taken by a four-fifths majority of the votes of the Members present or represented.

If two-thirds of the Members are not present or represented at the General Assembly session, the President shall convene a new session, which must take place no earlier than the fifteenth day after the previously convened session. This new session shall be deemed to have achieved quorum regardless of the number of Members present or represented. If two-thirds of the Members are not present or represented at the General Assembly session, the President shall convene a new session, which must take place no earlier than the fifteenth day after the previously convened session. This new session shall

be deemed to have achieved quorum regardless of the number of Members present or represented.

Article 34. Dissolution

The association shall be dissolved:

- By decision of the General Assembly, in accordance with the quorum and majority requirements set out in Article 33;
- When the number of Members falls below 3 Political Members and 3 Members from the Business sector;
- By judicial decision.

Article 35. Liquidation

In the event of the dissolution of the association, for any reason and at any time, the administrators in office shall be appointed as liquidators under these statutes if no other liquidator has been designated, without prejudice to the General Assembly's ability to appoint one or more liquidators and to determine their powers and remuneration.

Article 36. Allocation of the Net Assets

In all cases of voluntary or judicial dissolution, the net assets of the dissolved association shall be allocated to the organisation or organisations that succeed the association, provided that such assets are dedicated to a disinterested purpose, or failing that, to one or more organisations pursuing objectives similar to those of the association, provided that they also pursue a disinterested purpose. These decisions, as well as the name, profession and address of the liquidator(s), shall be published in the Annexes to the Belgian Official Gazette (Moniteur belge).

TITRE IX. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 37. Liability

The Members of the association shall not incur, by virtue of their membership, any liability—whether individual, collective, or joint—in respect of actions undertaken by the association, and the obligations of the Members shall be strictly limited to the amount of their membership contribution.

Article 38. Election of domicile

For the implementation of these statutes, any member, director, auditor or liquidator residing abroad shall elect domicile at the registered office, where all communications, notices, summonses and formal notifications may validly be served upon them, unless they have elected another domicile in Belgium for their dealings with the association.

Article 39. Jurisdiction

For any dispute between the association and its members, directors, auditors, or liquidators relating to the affairs of the association or to the implementation of these statutes, exclusive jurisdiction is granted to the courts of the district in which the registered office is located, unless the association expressly waives this provision.

Article 40. Use of languages

To the extent required by Belgian law, the documents and procedures of the association shall be drawn up in French. The working language of the association is English.

Article 41. Common law

The provisions of the Code of Companies and Associations to which no lawful derogation may be made shall be deemed to be included in these statutes, and any clauses contrary to the mandatory provisions of the Code of Companies and Associations shall be considered null and void.

FINAL AND/OR TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

The appearing parties unanimously adopt the following decisions, which shall become effective only upon filing with the registry of an exemplified copy of the deed of incorporation, in accordance with the law.

1. First financial year and first ordinary general meeting

The first financial year will begin on the day of filing with the registry of an exemplified copy of this deed and will end on 31 December 2020.

The first ordinary general meeting will therefore take place on the last Friday in June 2021.

2. Registered office address

The registered office address is located at:

Chaussée d'Alsemberg 1084 Boite 5
1180 Uccle

3. Website and e-mail address

The association's website is www.europeanfoodforum.eu

The association's e-mail address is contact@europeanfoodforum.eu

Any communication sent to this address by members of the association shall be deemed to have been validly made.

4. Appointment of directors

The meeting decides to set the number of directors at 3.

- Are appointed to the office of director for a term of 3 years:
- Iliana Axiotiades Chair of the Board of Management
- Dionne Heijnen Treasurer
- Luisella Ciani Director General

Tous prénommés et ici présents et qui acceptent

Leur mandat est gratuit

5. Commissaire

Compte tenu des critères légaux, les comparants décident de ne pas procéder actuellement à la nomination d'un commissaire.

6. Pouvoirs

La société REGIE CONTELLATION ayant son siège à 1000 Bruxelles, Chaussée d'Alsemberg 1084 Boite 51180 Uccleou toute autre personne désignée par lui, est désigné en qualité de mandataire *ad hoc* de l'association, afin de disposer des fonds, de signer tous documents et de procéder aux formalités requises auprès de l'administration de la tva ou en vue de l'inscription à la Banque carrefour des Entreprises.

For the purposes set out above, the ad hoc representative shall have the power to enter into any commitments in the name of the association, to make any necessary declarations, to sign all documents, and, in general, to do anything useful or necessary for the execution of the mandate entrusted to them.

7. The person entrusted with the day-to-day management of the non-profit association shall be vested with all powers necessary for the daily and operational administration of the association. In this capacity, they are authorised to carry out all acts of routine management and to implement the decisions of the Board of Directors, including in particular the management of staff, the signing of contracts and agreements required for the functioning of the association, day-to-day financial management (payments, invoicing, cash-flow monitoring, banking relations), accounting administration, representation of the association before third parties and authorities, as well as the organisation and supervision of activities. They act in compliance with the association's purpose, budget, and the guidelines set by the Board of Directors, to which they report regularly on their management.

The persons who have been designated above as directors, and who are present or represented as indicated, unanimously declare that they take the following decisions:

- Madame Luisella CIANI, née à Palmanova (UD) le 21 Juin 1971 e nationalité italienne, numéro national bis 710621-570.42, domicilié à 1040, Bruxelles (BE), Avenue Edouard de Thibault, 18, est désignée à la fonction de directeur général ici présente et qui accepte.

8. Costs and declarations of the parties

The appearing parties declare that they are aware that the amount of the costs, fees and charges incumbent upon the association as a result of its incorporation amounts to two thousand three hundred euros (EUR 2,300). They acknowledge that the undersigned notary has drawn their attention to the fact that the association, in the pursuit of its purpose, may be required to obtain prior authorisations or licences, or to meet

certain conditions, due to the regulations in force governing access to certain activities.

PRO FISCO

The registration duty (Code of Various Duties and Taxes) amounts to ninety-five euros (95 EUR) and is paid on declaration by the undersigned notary.

ARTICLE 9 §1, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE 'VENTÔSE' LAW

The appearing parties acknowledge that they have been informed by the officiating notary of the scope of Article 9, §1, paragraph 2, of the law governing the organisation of the notarial profession, which provides: *'Where the notary notes the existence of conflicting interests or disproportionate commitments, the notary shall draw the parties' attention to this and inform them that each of them is free to appoint another notary or to seek independent advice. The notary shall make mention of this in the notarial deed.'*